

Veterinary Medical Board Update - February 2021

Welcome to a monthly update from the Veterinary Medical Board (Board). Please visit the Board's website at www.vmb.ca.gov for more information.

RECENT NEWS:

- Effective January 1, 2021, Assembly Bill (AB) 149 (Cooper, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2019) created new requirements for licensees who prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances (updated prescription pad security requirement and revised reporting requirements for controlled substances). For more information, visit the Board's [Latest News & Announcements](#) page.
- Effective January 1, 2021, AB 2113 (Low, Chapter 186, Statutes of 2020) created an expedited licensure process for refugees, asylees, and holders of special immigrant visas. For more information, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) [website](#).
- On January 26, 2021, the Director of DCA issued:
 - DCA Waiver [DCA-21-107 Order](#), which extended the examination deadline from 60 months to 66 months for veterinarian license applicants whose 60-month examination period expires between February 1, 2021, and April 2, 2021.
 - DCA Waiver [DCA-21-109 Order](#), which further extended, through March 31, 2021, the [June 4, 2020 waiver order](#) relating to the requirement that veterinarian license applicants, who are already licensed in another state and seeking California licensure from the Board, and temporary licensees complete a "face-to-face" training class in California in order to qualify for licensure.
 - DCA Waiver [DCA-21-110 Order](#), which extended the [June 4, 2020 waiver order](#) for a total period not to exceed 24 months from the date a veterinarian last examined the animal and prescribed the drug for prescriptions that may not be refilled between June 1, 2020, and October 1, 2020, due to the one-year time limitation in California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section [2032.1](#), subsection (c).
- On January 26, 2021, the Board's office reopened to the public following the statewide lifting of Regional Stay at Home Orders. The office is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Staff and visitors are expected to continue following pandemic safety guidelines, including wearing masks, and practicing physical distancing and hand hygiene.
- On [January 27, 2021](#), the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) met via teleconference and conducted the following business:
 - Recommended that the Board approve a legislative proposal that would create a California registered veterinary technician (RVT) licensure pathway for foreign candidates;
 - Recommended that the Board maintain its current veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) condition-specific requirement and requested Board authority to develop definitions for telemedicine, telehealth, telerriage, and telecommunication;
 - Recommended that the Board approve an option to amend veterinary premises and veterinarian fees in order to reduce RVT fees; and
 - Received an update from the Complaint Process Audit Subcommittee.
- On [January 28-29, 2021](#), the Board met via teleconference and took the following actions:
 - Approved the October 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes;
 - Approved the MDC's recommendation to withdraw the rulemaking package to amend CCR, title 16, section 2035, Duties of a Supervising Veterinarian;
 - Appointed Maria Salazar Sperber to the MDC as a public member;
 - Approved legislative and regulatory amendments regarding the elimination of the California State Board Examination and temporary licensee requirements;
 - Approved extensions of the DCA Director waivers related to the VCPR until the end of the State of Emergency or until the MDC provides final recommendations to the Board;
 - Approved the formation of an Access to Veterinary Care Committee;
 - Approved modified text for a 15-day public comment period to amend CCR, title 16, section 2006, Disciplinary Guidelines;
 - Approved responses to public comments for inclusion in the final rulemaking file on the modified text to amend CCR, title 16, section 2038.5, Animal Physical Rehabilitation;
 - Approved responses to public comments for incorporation into the final rulemaking file to amend CCR, title 16, sections 2070 and 2071, Fee Schedule;
 - Approved responses to public comments for inclusion in the final rulemaking file on the modified text to amend CCR, title 16, sections 2090-2095, Drug Compounding;
 - Approved a motion to place on probation the RVT degree program at San Joaquin Valley College (hearing on probation status to be held at the Board's April meeting); and
 - Held two petition hearings.
- **Continuing Education (CE) Audit Program:** The Board recently revamped its CE audit program and is now conducting monthly CE audits. **Any CE records that are tracked in the American Association of Veterinary State Board's (AAVSB) [RACEtrack](#) system will not need to be forwarded to the Board.** For more information regarding CE

requirements, approved providers, and FAQs, visit the Board's [CE web page](#). Please note that the Board does not require a specific Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drug course, but will accept any RACE-approved course or course from a [statutorily approved provider](#).

REMINDERS:

- **Inspections:** During the declared State of Emergency, the Board is authorized and continues to inspect veterinary premises. All veterinary premises where veterinary medicine is being practiced are required to be in compliance with the [Minimum Standards](#) required by law at all times.
- **Expert Witnesses Needed:** The Board is recruiting California licensed veterinarians to serve as expert witnesses for the Board's enforcement program. Expert witnesses play a very important role in consumer protection by providing their opinion on the standard of care in the profession. Experts are reimbursed for their services and may be called on to provide consultation to staff, review case materials, prepare written opinions, and, when necessary, testify at administrative hearings. For additional information, please visit the Board's [website](#) or contact Wendy Garske at Wendy.Garske@dca.ca.gov.
- **Fingerprinting:** Fingerprints are required for license renewal. (Bus. & Prof. Code Sections [144](#), [4836.2](#); CCR, tit. 16, section [2010.05](#).) Licensees should review their license renewal reminder to see if fingerprinting is specifically required to renew their licenses. The Board's website provides [fingerprinting requirements and instructions](#) and a list of [Active Live Scan Sites](#) for those who can complete fingerprinting in California. For those who are not able to travel to California, a request for a hard card packet for fingerprinting can be sent to vmb@dca.ca.gov. Licensees must include their Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) when completing the Live Scan form or fingerprint card. If a licensee fails to identify their SSN or ITIN on the Live Scan form or fingerprint card, the Board will be unable to match the criminal history report with the licensee's file. License renewal cannot be completed until the Board receives the renewing licensee's criminal history report. Licensees are encouraged to complete fingerprinting well in advance of their license renewal date to ensure timely renewal. Per the Terms and Conditions between the Department of Justice and Live Scan facilities, any information not entered by the facility that is included on the Live Scan form must be done at no additional expense to the fingerprint requestor. If licensees and applicants are being charged to redo their fingerprints or correct information that the Live Scan facility made in error, please notify the [Board](#).

Coming Up:

- The Board's office will be closed Monday, February 15, 2021, in observance of President's Day.
- The MDC's next scheduled [meeting](#) is April 21, 2020.
- The Board's next scheduled [meeting](#) is April 22-23, 2020.